

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 108969  
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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:GWCHAPMAN:RAH  
APPROVED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING  
EUR/P:WGEHRON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 108969

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO PRESS BRIEFING QUESTION  
ON TURKISH ARMS VIOLATIONS

REF: NICOSIA 1116

FOLLOWING IS RESPONSE POSTED IN DEPARTMENT TO QUESTION  
TAKEN AT NOON BRIEFING APRIL 21 AS TO WHETHER TURKEY IS  
IN VIOLATION OF AMERICAN LAW BY VIRTUE OF ITS PRESENCE IN  
CYPRUS. THIS WAS STATEMENT THAT PROMPTED ROLANDIS' PROTEST  
TO AMBASSADOR (REFTEL).

BEGIN TEXT:

QUESTION: IS TURKEY VIOLATING AMERICAN LAW BY VIRTUE OF  
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ITS PRESENCE ON CYPRUS?

ANSWER: THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES DO NOT, OF THEM-  
SELVES, CREATE OBLIGATIONS FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO DO OR  
TO REFRAIN FROM DOING ANYTHING. THEY MAY, OF COURSE,  
IMPOSE DUTIES UPON THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. THE QUESTION IS,  
THEREFORE, WHETHER THE TURKISH PRESENCE ON CYPRUS OR

TURKISH ACTIVITIES THERE NOW OBLIGE THE ADMINISTRATION TO  
TAKE PARTICULAR ACTIONS TO DISCHARGE ITS DUTIES UNDER

UNITED STATES LAW.

THE 1974 TURKISH INTERVENTION ON CYPRUS PROMPTED THE  
ENACTMENT BY CONGRESS OF SPECIAL LEGISLATION SPECIFICALLY  
APPLICABLE TO TURKEY. THAT LEGISLATION REQUIRED THE  
SUSPENSION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SALES AND LICENSING  
WITH RESPECT TO TURKEY, ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT WAS SUBSE-  
QUENTLY AUTHORIZED TO PERMIT SOME SALES TO TURKEY. THIS  
LEGISLATION ALSO REQUIRED THE PRESIDENT TO SUBMIT  
PERIODIC REPORTS TO CONGRESS CONCERNING PROGRESS MADE  
TOWARD A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS CONFLICT.  
ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY THIS LEGISLATION HAVE  
BEEN EXECUTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

THERE ARE MANY OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW OF GENERAL APPLI-  
CATION WHICH AFFECT THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONDUCT OF  
FOREIGN POLICY. THESE INCLUDE PROVISIONS RELATING TO  
HUMAN RIGHTS, EXPROPRIATION OF U.S. PROPERTY, SEIZURE OF  
U.S. FISHING VESSELS, AND MANY OTHER SUBJECTS. WE DO NOT  
BELIEVE THAT THE TURKISH PRESENCE ON CYPRUS REQUIRES THE  
ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE ANY ACTION UNDER ANY OF THESE  
PROVISIONS. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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